

NAME REDACTED

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**Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW**

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In the last 2 years alone \$29 million of taxpayers' money was spent subsidizing the native forest logging division of Forestry Corp. (Nature Conservation Council 2023). The logging of public native forests is not sustainable. Previous valuations of trees available have been overestimated. The forest harvests have decreased by 40% since 2010 and fires in 2019/20 burnt 5.5 million hectares. In order to meet quotas Forest Corp has not taken these factors into account. As a result, the forests are now being logged more intensively at an unsustainable level. Logging mature native forests should be halted before the industry completely collapses and the forests are damaged irrevocably.

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**Topic 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values**

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The public native forests have some of the greatest biodiversity in the world ranging from Gondwana species on the tablelands to tall coastal eucalypts. They support a large number of vulnerable marsupials and other animals as well as unique flora. Iconic species such as the koala and greater glider are near extinction, with threats from global warming causing droughts and forest fires. The revoking of native vegetation clearance laws, urbanization and intensive industrial logging have dramatically reduced their populations. We need intact public unlogged forests to give them the best chance of survival.

Unlogged forests assist in regional resilience against catastrophic bush fires. Logging makes the forest more flammable by opening up the canopy, changing the understorey structure and introducing weeds such as lantana. This opening up of the canopy also results in Bell Miner Associated Dieback affecting many hundreds of hectares. Dead trees burn better.

An intact forest increases community resilience by regulating water flow and reducing runoff. Clearing, especially on steep slopes, increases the likelihood of flooding and sedimentation. What is the cost of flood mitigation, water treatment plants and affected fisheries resulting from the damaging effects of industrial scale logging.

Mature forests are a valuable carbon sink as well as cleaning the air and cooling the surrounding environment.

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**Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs**

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Plantation hectares need to be greatly increased (but not as an excuse to log the mature native forest first). The government could encourage and subsidize agroforestry. Land on farms which gives limited return on grazing, can be used. It has been found that shelter belts, riparian plantings and overall increased tree coverage on farm results in higher productivity as well as the extra income from timber.

Logging of native forests on private land is as destructive as in public native forests.

**Topic 5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models**

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A 2021 study by Frontier Economics' found that stopping logging in public native forests in Southern N.S.W would produce a net economic benefit to the state of approx \$60million while also reducing met greenhouse gas emissions by almost 1 million Tonnes per annum over the period of 2022-2041 compared to logging.. (NEFA media release D Pugh 31/10/22).

The University of Newcastle also conducted a report into the economics of the Great Koala National Park in 2021.They found the park would result in 9,800 full time jobs such as park management, eco tourism and hospitality, scientific inquiry and bee keeping. This would generate and income of \$1.2 billion across the region

State forests could protect important cultural sites and employ indigenous rangers. They could carry out various land management practices such as fire stick burning and protect archeological sites. This improves community resilience and closes the gap on employment opportunities.